ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A blade tensioner includes a blade shoe with an arcuately curved chain sliding face and a plurality of solitary guide pieces upraised from a side edge portion of the chain sliding face in numerous places following the chain sliding face. The blade tensioner also includes a leaf spring-shaped blade spring disposed on the opposite side of the blade shoe from the chain sliding face which applies spring force to the blade shoe. The two guide pieces in a pair of guide pieces are preferably disposed opposite each other on the right side edge and left side edge of the chain sliding face, respectively. Alternatively, the guide pieces are disposed alternately on the right and left side edges of the chain sliding face. Consequently, the blade shoe preferably has either a nearly U-shaped cross section or a nearly L-shaped cross section where the guide pieces are formed.